

REMARKS

Please consider the following comments. Following this response, claims 1 and 6-12 are pending. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner has rejected claims 10-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by United States Patent No. 5,754,430 to Sawada (“Sawada”). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

By this response, Applicant has cancelled claims 10-12, thus rendering this rejection moot.

Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 10-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Sawada.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that claims 1-9 are allowable. Applicant believes that this was intended to be an indication that claims 1 and 6-9 are allowable, since claims 2-5 were previously canceled, and the Examiner indicated in paragraph 1 of the Action that claims 1 and 6-9 were allowable.

Applicant respectfully acknowledges the allowability of these claims.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that, as described above, the cited prior art does not show or suggest the combination of features recited in the claims. Applicant does not concede that the

cited prior art shows any of the elements recited in the claims. However, applicant has provided specific examples of elements in the claims that are clearly not present in the cited prior art.

Applicant strongly emphasizes that one reviewing the prosecution history should not interpret any of the examples Applicant has described herein in connection with distinguishing over the prior art as limiting to those specific features in isolation. Rather, for the sake of simplicity, Applicant has provided examples of why the claims described above are distinguishable over the cited prior art.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance. A timely notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If questions relating to patentability remain, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

Although it is not anticipated that any additional fees are due or payable, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be required to Deposit Account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,



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